

<b>BIG IDEA:</b>	God's wants to be the leader of your life, so you should follow Him instead of the crowd.
<b>BIBLE BASIS:</b>	Daniel 6
<b>KEY VERSE:</b>	"Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd." Exodus 23:2a (NIV)

## THE BIG BIBLE STORY

Watch the Preschool video [here](#).

Watch the Elementary video [here](#).

Last week, we heard about three of Daniel's friends who got thrown into a fiery furnace. Their names were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego! After God saved them from the fire, a new king began ruling the city of Babylon. His name was King Darius. Fortunately, King Darius liked Daniel a lot. Daniel was one of the king's royal governors and he did a better job leading the city than anyone else, so the king made plans to put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom. Great news for Daniel, but not for the other rulers!

When the other rulers heard about the king's plan, they became super jealous. The other rulers were so jealous that they began looking for a way to bring Daniel down. At first, they tried to catch Daniel breaking the rules, but they couldn't. Daniel always followed God and did what was right. So the other rulers came up with a new plan. If they couldn't catch Daniel breaking one of the old rules, they would make up a new rule that they knew Daniel couldn't keep. The new rule is in Daniel 6:6-9. "So the two leaders and the royal rulers went as a group to the king. They said, 'King Darius, may you live forever! All the royal leaders, high officials, royal rulers, advisers and governors want to make a suggestion. We've agreed that you should give an order. And you should make sure it's obeyed. Your Majesty, here is the command you should make your people obey for the next 30 days. Don't let any of your people pray to any god or human being except to you. If they do, throw them into the lions' den. Now give the order. Write it down in the law of the Medes and Persians. Then it can't be changed.' So King Darius put the order in writing."

When Daniel heard the new rule, he knew that he couldn't follow it. Even if everyone in the kingdom prayed to the king, Daniel was still going to pray to the one true God. Just like always, Daniel went up to his bedroom window, got down on his knees. And guess who was watching—the other rulers! When they saw that Daniel was breaking the new rule, they ran straight to the king. When the king heard about Daniel, he was very upset. He loved Daniel and didn't want him to be hurt, but there was nothing he could do to change the law. So the king reluctantly gave the order to have Daniel thrown into the lions' den.

That night, the king was so upset that he couldn't eat or sleep. He tossed and turned and hoped that Daniel was somehow alright. In the morning, as soon as the sun began to rise, the king ran straight to the lions' den and shouted, "Daniel! Are you okay?" Tick tock, tick tock. It must have seemed like forever. But then, from the depths of the dark lions' den, Daniel's voice rang out, "I'm okay, the lions haven't hurt me at all! My God sent His angel to shut their mouths."

The king was filled with joy. He was so filled with joy and ordered his servants to have Daniel taken out of the lions' den. When they checked him out, they couldn't find a single scratch on him. That's because Daniel trusted God and followed Him instead of the crowd. And thanks to Daniel's faithfulness, he wasn't the only one that trusted God. King Darius now trusted God too and he made a new rule that said everyone in the kingdom had to respect and honor Daniel's God—the one true God!

## **BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS**

### **For Preschoolers:**

- What was your favorite part of the story?
- What did Daniel do when he was faced with something scary?
- How was God the hero of this story?

### **For Elementary:**

- What was your favorite part of this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- Why do you think Daniel prayed to God even though he knew he would get him thrown into the lion's den?
- How can you apply the story of Daniel to your life? What can you do differently?

## **BIG BIBLE STORY ACTIVITIES**

**Prayer Station prompt:** Write a prayer to God. Ask God to help you follow Him instead of the crowd.

**Journal Station prompt:** Tell God about a time you followed the crowd when they did what was wrong. Ask Him to forgive you.

**Bible Station prompt:** Read it for yourself: Daniel 6. Draw a picture of the story or write to God your favorite part of the story. Tell Him why you like it.

**Art Station prompt:** God wants to be the leader of your life. What does it look like for you to follow God? Draw a picture of it.